

Mr. GREEN,

YOU are desired to Print the few inclosed Sheets; from which the Roman Catholics in this Province may learn, the happy Condition of the Protestants in *France*, the Cruelty with which they are treated in that Country, the least forgotten of any popish Kingdom in *Europe*; so that by comparing the mildness and lenity of a *British* Government, with the arbitrary Injustice and Inhumanity of all those where their own Religion prevails; they may become sensible of the Happiness they enjoy under a Protestant Administration, and (if not openly, yet in their Consciences) acknowledge that Spirit of Charity and Benevolence, so eminently to be distinguish'd in the Reform'd Churches, from the persecuting Principles of the Roman Religion.

MEMOIRAL concerning the present State of the Protestant Religion in France.

Y the Advices we have lately received both from *France* and the adjacent Countries, it appears, that they are now determined in that Kingdom to make use of the utmost Severities against their Protestant Subjects. The said Protestants had, since the Year 1743, enjoyed some Toleration; the Court being persuaded, from a thousand Proofs, that, in their religious Assemblies, nothing passed that was contrary to the State; that they held them without Tumult; that they were without Arms of any Kind; and that they prayed God for the Prosperity of the King, and to augment his Majesty's perpetualty recommending Submission and Obedience to his Majesty, agreeably to the Acts passed in their national Synod, that was held August 18, 1744. The Court, say, which had a thousand Means to convince themselves of the Innocence of their Assemblies, did not only not oppose, but even rather, by their Forbearance, to authorize them.

Under a Favour of this Calm, the Protestant Religion made considerable Progress: Many who, out of Fear, did not dare to profess it, have publicly shewn their Zeal for it; and others, who formerly had been forced by Violence to forsake it, have readily embraced it again; and these last have been to many in Number, that by a Computation made by the Roman Catholics themselves, it has, in the Space of seven or eight Months, amounted to 29000. on the Side of *Montauban*; and in that neighbourhood. Upon this, the Roman Catholic Clergy took Alarm; fearing that such Conversions would considerably diminish their Revenue, by taking from them the casual Profits arising from Christenings, Marriages, &c. They have left no means untried, to engage the Court to interest itself in an Affair which to nearly concerned them. In order to support their ancient Privileges, they made them at a Time when they were about to furnish the King with a free Gift of several Millions of Livres; and, if Credit may be given to certain Advices, they gave it very strongly to be understood, that they were ready which was not to be slighted. In short, after trying all possible Means, they obtained two Edicts of the Court, at the 16th of February, 1745: They were not, 'tis true, new; the first was published the 11th of September, 1726, they added to it a severe Article concerning Preachers. The second is a repetition, Word for Word, of that which was issued the 9th of November, 1728; what is most remarkable in both amongst all the Edicts that have been published, is

The King's ORDONNANCE concerning People, of the Pretended Reform'd Religion, of the 1st of February, 1745.

By the King's Order.

THE King being informed that, notwithstanding all Exercise of the pretended Reformed Religion is forbidden by his Edicts, Declarations, and Ordonnances, there have been nevertheless of late, several Assemblies in the District of *Montauban*; and desiring to provide against it, his Majesty has ordered and does order, that conformably to his said Edicts, Declarations, and Ordonnances, all Preachers, who have convoked or shall convoke Assemblies in the said District, and who have preached or shall preach, or who have or shall exercise therein any Function, be arraigned, convicted, and punished; as likewise all and every Subject or Subjects of his Majesty, of what Quality or Condition soever, who shall have been, or may be found hereafter, in the said Assemblies, and who shall be there taken in the Fact; his Majesty willing that they be condemned to suffer the Pains expressed in the said Edicts, Declarations, and Ordonnances: And, moreover, with Regard to those, who shall be known to have assisted at the said Assemblies, but who have not been arrested upon the Spot, his Majesty wills and requires that, by the Orders of the Intendant and Commissary in the said District, the Men should be immediately sent, without any Hearing or Trial, to his Gallies, to serve there as Slaves during their Lives; and the Women and Daughters to be shut up, for ever, in Places which shall be assigned them.

His Majesty commands and orders the said Intendant and Commissary in the said District of *Montauban*, and his Bailiffs, Chief Justices, and other Officers and Justices whom it may concern, each in his respective Station, to pay exact Obedience to the present Ordonnance, which shall be read, published, and posted up, where-ever it may be necessary, that no Person may pretend Ignorance thereof. Done at *Versailles*, the first Day of February, in the Year 1745.

Signed, LOUIS.

And lower, By the King, PHILIPPAUX.

ORDONNANCE of the 16th of February, 1745.

HIS Majesty being informed that the different Punishments expressed in the Decrees, Declarations, and Ordonnances, published against those who assist at the unlawful Assemblies of the new Converts, have not yet been sufficient, entirely to stop the Course of them, because they make but slight Impressions upon People, whose Minds are filled with Error; and produce the Fear only of a Punishment, from which each one flatters himself he shall escape; and his Majesty being willing to put an End to these Disorders, which would totally cease if those of the new Converts, who fear being surprized themselves in the Assemblies, of which they have always Notion, and who, not fearing to let their Children and Domestic but often sending them there, were to desist from thus favouring and fomenting the Assemblies by their ill Counsels, or by their Connivance and Silence, which render them not less guilty of Disobedience, than those even who assist therein, he has resolved upon obliging all new Converts, for their better Education, to prevent the Holding such Assemblies, or to give them